

Herding Agents

Objective: To collect or herd oil into a smaller area and thicker slick in order to increase recovery. Can be used to herd oil away from sensitive areas or to help contain oil when it is necessary to move a boom.

Description: These agents, which are insoluble surfactants and have a high spreading pressure, are applied in small quantities (1-2 gallons per lineal mile) to the clean water surrounding the edge of a fresh oil slick. They contain the oil, prevent spreading, but do not hold the spill in place. Hand-held or vessel-mounted systems can be used. Must be applied early in spill, when oil is still fluid.

Applicable Habitat Types: On all still-water environments.

When to Use: Potential use for collection and protection. For collection, used to push slicks out from under docks and piers where it has become trapped, or in harbors where the equipment is readily accessible for use early in the spill. For protection in low-current areas, used to push slicks away from sensitive resources such as wetlands. Not effective in fast currents, rough seas, nor rainfall.

Biological Constraints: Not suitable for use in very shallow water nor fish-spawning areas.

Environmental Effects: Direct acute toxicity to surface-layer organisms possible, though available products vary greatly in their aquatic toxicity.

Waste Generation: Same as for manual oil recovery.